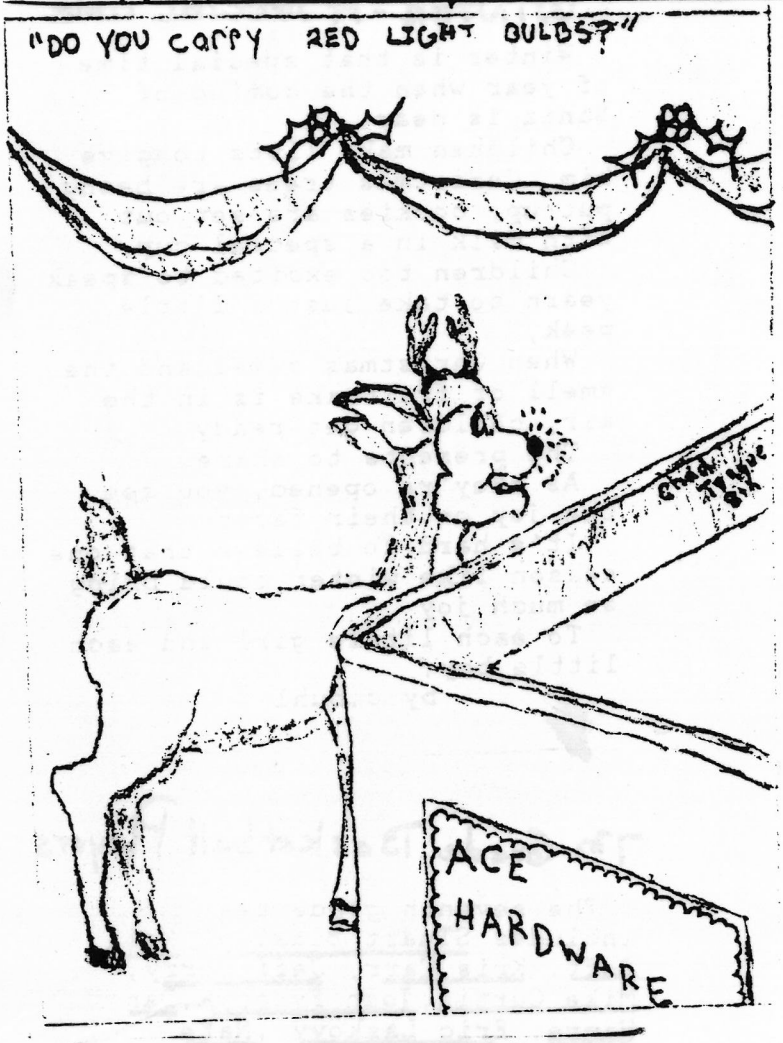
The Good Times

Vol. 14 #2 Michigan Ave. Middle School, Paw Paw, MI 49079 25¢



Practice Leads to Perfect..

The eighth grade basketball team has been practicing all month for the games which begin right after Christmas vacation.

The team consists of Tony Pechar, Mike Bommerscheim, Neil Piecyk, Mark Erickson, Jon Ashbaugh, Cory Cameron, Don Brown, Kevin VanBrussel, Eric Webb, Brian (Gator) Gates, Matt Hughes, Chris Soudek, Jason Lyon and Mike Hall.

The managers are Becky and Amy Houghton and Amy Thompson. The coach is Lee Sullivan.

Their first game is January 6.

by b.h.

WAPPAW JR. in PROGRES

A yearbook is a book of pictures showing who was here and all of the activities at the school that year.

The length of this year's yearbook is 56 pages. The cost is $10. If there are any extra copies in May they will cost $12.

Mr. Pefley is in charge of the sales and the pictures for the yearbook. Mrs. Marcelletti has volunteered to be in charge of the layout -ho the book is put together.

They may need students to help so anyone interested may ask them.

by l. stewart

Recipe

Recipe for a Merry Christmas

Ingredients:

a lot of decorations, holly, mistletoe, colored ornaments, tinsel

one Christmas tree, any variety

a lot of friends

even more family

a few presents

a lot of food, preferrably favorites

Take all the ingredients, mix well. Leave out for the whole of Christmas day.

Where Are Your Presents?

Where do they hide the Christmas presents at your house?

Brian Dean, Kasey Stenger, Chris Cover, Ryan Flesher, Michelle Wray, Amy Houghton, Doug Marr, Sarah Sommerfelt, and Hope Pease all agreed that their parents hide their presents in the closet.

Annie Clark finds her presents hidden under a pile of

DEAR SAM

Dear Sam,

I am writing for advice on a certain subject. I'm being pressured home into getting good grades at school. Iam in NSL.My parents are getting a divorce and I can't take it all. Please give me some advice.

Pressured

Dear Pressured,

I know it's hard when your parents are getting a divorce but just remember it's not your fault that they are getting a divorce.Remember they love you.

As for your grades, try to talk to your parents. Tell them you are trying your best in school.No one is perfect.

Just do your best and don't get the grades and the divorce mixed up. The two are separate issues.

MEET MRS. COLEMAN

Mrs. Coleman is the newest addition to our staff. She works with Mrs. Mahanty in the health/lifeskills class.Prior to this she was a social worker in Kalamazoo and before that she worked in Imlay City,Michigan.

The degrees she has are a bachelors from Wilmington College in Ohio and a masters in social work from Western Michigan University.

She has a husband named James, a son Troy who is in college and a daughter Daria who goes to Kalamazoo Central.

Her hobby is pottery. She likes to walk and listen to music and cross-country ski. Her favorite animal is either a dog or a cat. Her favorite coloris yellow. Her favorite kind of food is chicken and the music she likes best is jazz or classical.

Her special moments are times she spends with her mom and sister in Alabama.

Her plans for the future or dreams are she plans to continue working with children and become a social worker in private practice. CONT. 2ND COL.

We all hope that she enjoys it here and that she stays for a long,long time.

by B.Houghton & A. Thompson

WINTER - A SPECIAL TIME

Winter is that special time of year when the coming of Santa is near.

Children make lists to give him, Christmas trees are being put up, cookies are set out with milk in a special cup.

Children too excited to speak yearn to take just a little peek,

When Christmas comes and the smell of fruitcake is in the air, children get ready

The presents to share.

As they're opened, you see the joy on their faces,

It's hard to believe that one season like winter could bring so much joy

To each little girl and each little boy.

by c.buhl

7th Grade Basketball Players

The seventh grade team includes STuart Blakley, Neil Boff, Kris Carr, Jeff Curry, Mike Curtis,Josh Fytczyk,Dan Hamre, Eric Laskovy ,Nate Lockett,Bryn Martin,Randy McKenzie,Jamal Patterson,Rob Peplinski,Josh Timmermans,Kelly Watterworth,MikeWeinhart, Bob Zirkil,Jake Pursley,Sambo Barnett, Jason Barr, Jeromy Brown, Shawn Dundon,Ben Edinger,Rich Forbes, Kollin Goodwin,Nate GRochowski, Jeff Hansen,Joe Keithley, Bob Leonard, Brian MAnsberger, Jerry McCormick,Danny Owsiany, Brian Pease, Tim Phillips, Matt Pruitt, and Leon Williams.

The coach is Mr. Martin. The first game is January 6 away at Galesburg/Augusta.

My Most Memorable Christmas...

What was your most memorable Christmas ever? Several pollsters from Mrs. Swanson's 1st hour asked.

Robert Shreve recalls his most memorable Christmas to be when he broke his head open. Sara Labadie recalls hers was when her dad got stuck in the chimney.

The most memorable Christmas for Amy Zache was when she went swimming and froze. Christmas of 1986 was the most memorable for Ryan Flesher because he got a scooter. Ginna Roe says hers was when her dog ate their Christmas tree.

Chicken pox allows Christine Curry to recall her most memorable Christmas colorfully. Sheletha Manuel remembers when her whole family had the flu. Matt Hughes says his was when he got his Winnie the Pooh sweater.

Michelle Knapp says hers was when she got Oscar and Winnie the Pooh. Amy Thompson and Becky Houghton recall their most memorable Christmas was getting their Cabbage Patches. Debbie Lumm remembers her most memorableas the one when her mom and dad stayed up all night to build a kitchen set for her sister and the dog ruined it!

Terry Reisterer recalls the Christmas her cat climbed the Christmas tree. Tonya Offord remembers as does Becky Burge that all their Christmases were memorable. Kris Kraker's memory is of the time her aunt Weeze's friend threw a pie in her face right after Christmas dinner.

Neil Piecyk recalls his most memorable Christmas was when his tree fell over. Harvey Garcia's most memorable was when he saw Santa. Stacy Kruizenga's most memorable was when she was in Florida and used a palm tree to decorate.

Kristi Flesher recalls going to midnight mass when the big lady behind her had a heart attack. Craig Olsen' most memorable will be in 2004. Jessica Angel's most memorable was when her dad fell face first into the snow and couldn't get out.

Most memorable for Mike Roberts, Jennifer Barnett, Rachel Stoner, Amy Buskirk, and Tammy Evans was last year's Christmas. Eric Griffiths remembers best the one when he was three and saw his dad put the presents under the tree and eat the cookies left for Santa.

Loree Hoover recalls her most memorable to be when she was seven and she also saw her dad plus her mom putting the presents under the tree.

b.h., s.h., and j.m.

ALL-SCHOOL SPELLING UNDERWAY

Spelling contests are underway again as each grade level selected this week its top ten spellers. The all-school spelling contest will be held January 13 at the middle school cafeteria to select the top ten from fifth through eighth grade.

The top two from the middle school will go on to participate in the Kalamazoo Gazette competition that leads to the National Spelling Bee. Two top students from each fifth grade will also participate in this February competition.

The top ten as a team will go to Lawton in April for a six-school tournament.

Continued from page 1 - Presents

blankets in her parents' room. Michelle Hudson's smart parents keep her presents on layaway. Lisa Carpenter's parents keep her presents at work.

Andrea Miller's parents lock her presents in the shed. John Ridderbos' parents hide his in the bathroom closet.

Kim Anderson's gifts are on the front porch. Matt Blair finds his under the tree. (sneaky) Angie Moorian, Melissa Mansfield, and Mia Porter agree that their parents don't trust them and so keep the presents at a friend's house.

Vicky Conklin finds her presents in the bus. Jeremy Brown thinks his parents hide his at the North Pole.

j.merrill and s.hines

Dear Santa,

Dear Santa,
Are you for real? I want you to know I still believe.
From Still be

Dear S.B.,
Yes I am for real. Some say I'm not but it's not just me as a person who is real but it is the spirit of Christmas that I reflect that is real. You must believe in that to have a merry Christmas.

Dear Santa,
I don't have much money and I want to buy nice presents. What should I do?
from TooPoor

Dear T.P.,
It doesn't matter that you buy expensive gifts. It is the thought that really counts.You can make cards out of paper. Those you care for will appreciate it.And no one's too poor to share Christmas.
by d.f.

SING A Story ··

It was silent night. There were only twelve days of Christmas. Rudoplh the Red Nosed Reindeer was saying to Frosty the Snowman,"Do you hear what I hear?"
Frosty replied, "Yes, I hear Jingling Bells."
They both exclaimed,"Santa Claus is coming to town."
by m.bommerscheim, d.flanders,and a. thompson

Choir Concert Thursday

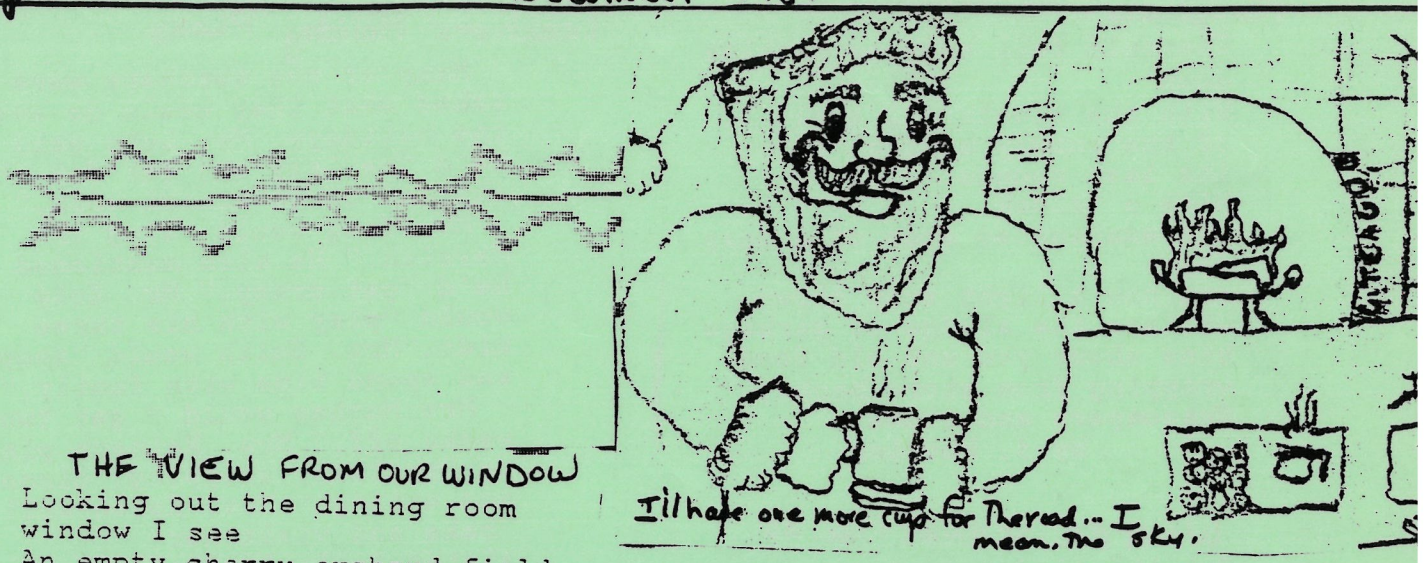
The choir concert last night included a number of old favorites as well as those a little less well-known.
Thesongs sung were "Light up the Tree","I'm too old for Christmas","We need a little Christmas","It's Christmas", "Let's Keep Christmas" and "Ten Feet of Snow."
Someof these songs were also included in the assembly.
by b.h.and a.t.

Interview with Mr. Ruesink

Mr. Ruesink has been a teacher for fifteen years. He is married to Leilani Ruesink who is a teacher for the gifted and talented in Three Rivers.
Mr. Ruesink has two children,a son who is 12 and goes to Three Rivers middle school, and a daughter who is a freshman at Michigan State. Mr. Ruesink was a pre-med chemistry student who switched to Western Michigan and became an elementary school teacher.
His favorite animal is the dog. He has four of them. His favorite color is silver and his favorite food is apple cobbler. He says he could never pass it up. His favorite music is 60's music.
Mr. Ruesink enjoys reading for a hobby. He also likes to spend all of his extra time repairing the old farm house that he lives in. He enjoys doing theatre also. The last play he was in he played a crazy man.He remembers a play he did where he had to do a whole scene in his underwear.
His favorite quote is"Everyone has a right to his opinion but no one has the right to be wrong about the facts."
His plans for the future include that he will always be a teacher but that he would also like to write a play or a book.
He says his uncle once told him he was a responsible person.Someday he would lke to have only to take care of himself and to be irresponsible. He admires his uncle who is a retired minister.
by l.stewart

GOOD TIMERS THIS TIME

The Good Timers this issue were the members of Mrs.Swanson's 1st and 2nd hour classes. Special thanks goes to Matt Hughes who designed the flag for this issue and to all those who received bylines for much work.



THE VIEW FROM OUR WINDOW

Looking out the dining room
window I see
An empty cherry orchard field
Filled with old branches and
weeds.
Beyond this lonesome field
A small house surrounded by
trees,
A dark and sorrowed apple
orchard
With many dying trees.
Above are dark, dreary snow
clouds.
An eery feeling takes over my
young soul.
I turn around.
The house creaks in the subtle
darkness.
The evening.

by m. knapp

OUTDOORS

Looking out, an old, tired
swingset rests in peace,
Waits for times when it can be
played on.
A huge tree with a wornout tree
house
Also waits to be played in
again.
A white shed used for a fort
A young boy playes in it
bundled up.
The blanket of snow on the
ground is cold
The boys bright cheeks and red
nose
Match his sparkling eyes.
He teases a dog
Pretending to throw a stick.
The dog runs off,
They return to the warmth of
the house.

by j. bergeson

Thanks for typing, Amy!

CAT'S DINNER

What I see looking out the
window -
It is a cloudy day.
Raining on and off
As the cat,
sitting under the bird feeder.
tries to catch the birds,
sees a mole in the ground-
cathches it for supper.

by m. boomershime

RAINY DAYS AND HUNTING

Looking out
Raindrops drip in the cold
matted grass
Mole holes spining in circles
through our front yard.
The pine trees
stiff with the water
Sap runs to the ground.
Shotgun shells imbedded in the
soil,
Skyso grey makes the world
dark.
I fall asleep
To the drum beet of the rain

by d. griffiths

D.G.

Paraphrase - T.S. ELIOT

The cold fall evening settles
down
With the electrical smell of
of the subway making
its last rounds.
Nine o 'clock.
The exahausted ends of a busy
day
and now a light snow shown
whitens the sludge of garbage
bins about you and old food
wrapping from store backs;
Skyscrapers and slums.
by j. kutrich

WINTER SCENE: Dec. 25

Out the window
The beginning of the woods.
An indent in the ground where
the pond is.
Three deer rush by
Leaving their hiding place.
A small boat is blown by the
wind.
Christmas trees all sizes,
Swaying in the wind.
by m. hughes

WATCHING

Looking out my bedroom window,
Our neighbor brushes her lawn,
Silently moves the rake.
Piles are blown.
Leaves rustle in the wind.
Every leaf in the pile like a
piece of cloth,
Just cut and dyed.
A dog tears at our garbage.
He fights with a milk jug over
a chicken bone,
The milk jug is winning.
She chases the dog away.
The dog messing her piles in
his escape.
I leave to help her rake.
Someone is watching us both.
by a. seelye

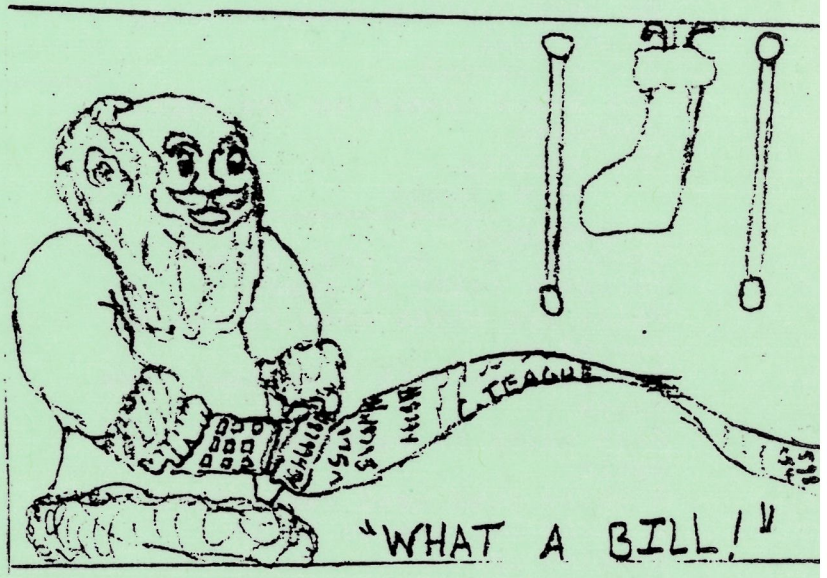
Teachers' Holiday Plans

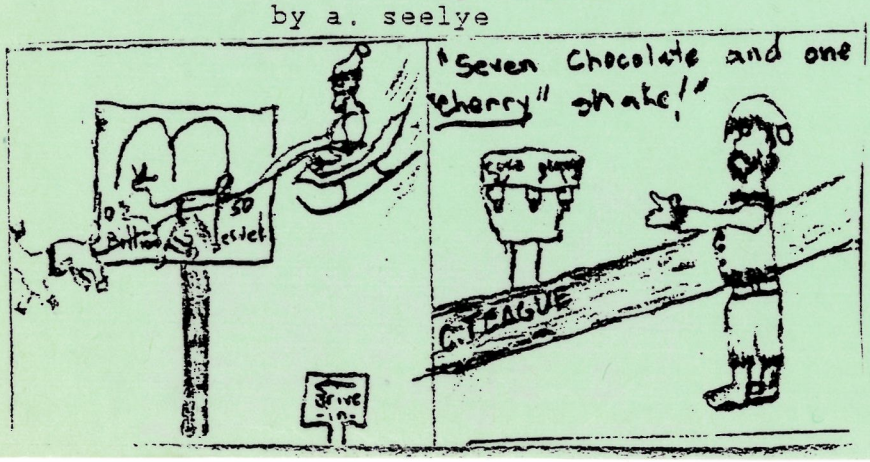
Many of the teachers were asked what they would do over the holidays. Mr. Lutz said he'd "be lazy and get fat. He'd ski and do no school work."

Mr. Sang would "sing the Messiah." He also mentioned he'd "get crazy." Mr. Zolp would "play with his three kids."Mrs. Smith would "shop and spend time with family."

Mrs.Hughes would " get two weeks off." Mrs. Reinsch plans on "parties, shopping, dinners and eating." Mrs. Kolon will "bake and visit her sister-in-law's family."

Mrs. Kalisiak will "go to Las Vegas and then share her riches with P.P.M.S." She'll also "play with her kids." Mr. Snyder will go home and "drink his cocoa." Mrs.Swanson will "dig through the rubble of my living room, find the carpet and lie on it ,reading."





Opinion pollsters thank all who answered and all the teachers who graciously let us in to do them. Not everyone's opinion appears but all are read and sorted. Any 7th or 6th grader who would like to write about things that may pertain specifically to 6th or 7th grade is encouraged to do so and to bring those to Mrs.Swanson or to their English teacher.